

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 143478
ORIGIN SS-15

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DRAFTED BY S/S-O D GREENLEE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCPAC

S E C R E T STATE 143478

HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING REPEAT VIENTIANE 948 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BANGKOK
JUN 21.

QUOTE S E C R E T VIENTIANE 0948

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: ENRG MMOL LA VM

SUBJECT: OIL PIPELINES AND STORAGE CAPACITY IN SOUTH AND CENTRAL
LAOS

REF: A VIENTIANE 0946, B VIENTIANE 0433, C VIENTIANE 0525

1. A RELIABLE FRENCH DIPLOMATIC SOURCE INFORMED
EMBOFF JUNE 14 THAT TWO NINE INCH FUEL PIPELINES
EXTENDING ALONG ROUTE 13 (VE2599) NORTH OF BAN NA HIN WERE IN
OPERATION, ONE CARRYING GASOIL (DIESEL) AND THE OTHER
"BENZINE".

2. A KNOWLEDGEABLE AND USUALLY RELIABLE WESTERN
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SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF JUNE 16 THAT AN ASSOCIATE RECENTLY
DROVE THE LENGTH OF THE PIPELINE (ROUTE 8/81) AND
REPORTED SEEING LARGE PETROLEUM STORAGE TANKS LN HIGH
ELEVATIONS IN THE NAPE REGION. THE SOURCE THEORIZED
THAT THE TANKS MARKED THE ORIGIN OF THE PIPELINE AND
THAT FUEL MIGHT BE SUPPLIED TO THAT POINT BY TRUCK
FROM VIETNAM, OR THROUGH EXISTING NORTH-SOUTH RUNNING

PIPELINES THAT WERE PART OF THE HO CHI MINH TRAIL
COMPLEX.

3. THE WESTERN SOURCE SAID THAT CURRENT LAO ANNUAL
PETROLEUM NEEDS ARE APPROXIMATELY 50,000 TONS. HE
ADDED THAT THE BULK OF LAO FUEL REQUIREMENTS WERE FOR
GASOIL.

4. REF A REPORTED THE PRESENCE OF A TOTAL OF SIX
OPERATIONAL FUEL STORAGE TANKS ALONG ROUTE 9 BETWEEN
DONE HENE AND SEPONE WITH A STRATEGIC FUEL
STORAGE SITE AT SEPONE.

5. COMMENT: THE VOLUME OF FUEL THAT COULD BE PUMPED
THROUGH TWO NINE INCH PIPELINES (PARA 1) AS WELL AS
IMPROVEMENT OF FUEL STORAGE CAPACITY IN SAVANNAKHET
SUGGEST DEVELOPMENT OF FUEL SUPPLY BEYOND THE CURRENT
NEEDS OF THE LPDR, AS ALSO INDICATED PARA 2 REF C.

6. REF B REPORTED THAT THE TWO PIPELINES WERE EACH
EIGHT INCH DIAMETER.

7. RECOMMENDATION: THAT DEPARTMENT REPEAT THIS
MESSAGE TO CINCPAC, CIA AND DIA.
CORCORAN UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

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